



Dear Parents/Carers,

Year 11 Examination Period Information

As the start of the GCSE exam period approaches, we would like to share important information regarding the exam schedule, our expectations, and how we will support our students during this crucial time.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and congratulate our students for their hard work and efforts so far. Taking your GCSEs can be a stressful time and requires a lot of dedication and commitment. We have already spoken to the students about making 'themselves proud', the school and staff are already proud of them, now is the time for them to show just how good they can be.

The content of this letter is intended to outline key information so everyone is aware. Please read it carefully and should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to make contact.

Updates

Over the course of the next few weeks we will be updating our designated Year 11 webpage with everything you need to know to support your child. We encourage all families and students to check this periodically and use the guidance to support revision and exam preparation. You can find the page under the "Information for students and parents" section of our website, alternatively see the link below:

<https://www.stdunstansschool.com/information-for-students-and-parentscarers/year-11-exams-information-and-support.htm>

100% Commitment – 'All In!'

To provide every student with the best possible opportunities for success, we have planned a variety of support sessions both within and outside of the regular school day. This includes May half term revision sessions, and a tailored Year 11 timetable starting on **Friday 8th May**. Our goal is to ensure students receive the right interventions at the right time, and we expect full commitment and attendance from all students.

Power Hour has been a tremendous success, however we will change the format of these sessions after **Thursday 7th May**. The fortnightly timetable will be made flexible to allow

subjects to run revision sessions before their scheduled exam day. Students will be informed about which sessions are running and when via the daily briefing sheet.

Please note that due to a Parents' Evening event, Power Hour is not compulsory on Thursday 30th April, although Mrs Gregory is running an English revision session that we recommend your child attends.

Throughout the exam period the library will be open until 16:15 Monday to Thursday. The school is happy to extend the opening of the library until 17:30 - if there is sufficient demand for it from our Year 11 students. We will ask you to complete a google form to indicate if this is of interest to your child, when we write to you to confirm the May half term revision sessions.

Examinations

Attending all exams and directed revision sessions is mandatory. Parents and carers should be aware that non-attendance at exams will incur a financial penalty. These are nationally scheduled exams, and students do not have the option to re-sit them on another date. Each GCSE exam costs approximately £50 per subject, so please be aware that a financial penalty will be charged if a student intentionally misses an exam. Payment for missed exams must be made before GCSE results day on **20th August 2026**.

If a student misses an exam due to illness or another valid reason, then you will need to provide the school with medical evidence, such as a doctor's note, to enable us to inform the exam boards. It is at the discretion of the exam board whether a grade will be awarded. Should your child fall ill or face an emergency, please notify the main office immediately.

Year 11 Exam Period and Timetabled Lessons

To ensure the best support for our students during this time, Year 11 students will continue attending school during normal hours until **Friday 12th June**. Like most schools, we do not offer study leave. Students will be in again on Monday 15th June for their Physics exam and will be able to leave the school site after that exam finishes at approximately 11:00.

Before each exam, St Dunstan's teachers will deliver a pre exam briefing, which will cover key tips that students need in order to be successful on that paper. To ensure that we register students accurately and deliver the pre exam briefing in a timely manner, we are requesting that students are in school by **08:30** and in the Drama Studio for **08:35** on the days when they have a morning exam.



Full adherence to the school uniform policy—including shoes, jewellery, and piercings—will be required throughout the exam period. Leaver's hoodies will not be permitted on Fridays during the exam period due to JCQ regulations.

Commitments Outside of School

We understand that many students have personal commitments outside of school that will require careful management during this time. While we encourage students to engage in extracurricular activities, their academic responsibilities must take precedence. We advise students to carefully plan their schedules to avoid any conflicts.

For those with part-time jobs, it is important to discuss exam dates with employers and adjust work schedules to allow sufficient time for revision and attendance at school sessions.

Exam Contingency days

Please be aware that **Wednesday 24th June 2026** is a national exam contingency day. All candidates must be available up until this date in case any exams need to be rescheduled by the awarding bodies.

Please also take time to read the guidance from JCQ which is available on our website.

We would like to wish all Year 11 students the best of luck during this challenging and exciting time. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr T Armstrong

Assistant Headteacher

St Dunstan's School